

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00
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R 041645Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1203

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3526

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT MARR PO
SUBJECT: AZORES BASE NEGOTIATIONS: MEETING WITH
VILLAS BOAS

REF: LISBON 3010

1. DCM AND I MET WITH VILLAS BOAS MAY 4. HE REVIEWED HIS
APRIL 22 TALK WITH DEPTOFFS IN ACCURATE FASHION, COMMENTING
THAT PORTUGUESE WERE DISAPPOINTED BY INITIAL US RESPONSE
ON POSSIBLE AID FIGURES. HE PARTICULARLY DREW OUR ATTENTION
TO AMBASSADOR THEMIDO'S SURPRISE THAT \$300 MILLION ESF
LOAN WAS BEING CITED AS EXAMPLE OF USG LARGESSE, SINCE
LOAN WAS NEGOTIATED WITH DIFFICULTY, AT SOME LENGTH, AND
TERMS WERE NOT EASY.

2. VILLAS BOAS SAID HE HAD NOT YET HAD A CHANCE TO
REVIEW IN DETAIL HIS WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS WITH FONMIN
MEDEIROS FERREIRA, BUT AGAIN STRESSED GOP DESIRE THAT BASE
TALKS PROCEED SMOOTHLY. HE EMPHASIZED THAT LISBON'S
POLITICAL PROBLEM WITH THE AZOREANS WAS A REAL ONE REQUIRING
DELICATE HANDLING, AND SAID HE HOPED WASHINGTON UNDERSTOOD
THIS. WE ASSURED HIM SUCH WAS THE CASE. HE NOTED
IN PASSING THAT HE DID NOT CITE SPECIFIC FIGURES
DURING HIS APRIL 22 MEETING SINCE HE ASSUMED (CORRECTLY)
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THAT THE DEPT. ALREADY HAD RECEIVED THE FIGURES FROM
HIS PRIOR CONVERSATION WITH US (REFTEL).

3. I TOLD VILLAS BOAS THAT THE DEPT. THOUGHT THE
APRIL 22 MEETING A USEFUL START; THAT THE DEPT. WAS
AWAITING FURTHER REFINEMENTS OF THE PORTUGUESE POSITION
BASED ON THE APRIL 22 EXCHANGE OF VIEWS; AND THAT, AS

HERETOFORE, WE WERE PREPARED TO MOVE AT WHATEVER PACE THE PORTUGUESE CONSIDERED USEFUL.

4. RE MILITARY AID, I REINFORCED DEPT'S POINT ON NON-REASIBILITY OF INFRASTRUCTURE ASSISTANCE WITHOUT JOINT USE. WE BOTH AGREED THAT SEEKING EQUIPMENT RATHER THAN INFRASTRUCTURE WOULD BE WELL RECEIVED BY THE PAF, BUT POSSIBLY NOT THE ARMY. ON ECONOMIC AID WE STRESSED NECESSITY FOR AZOREAN DESIRES TO BE SCALED DOWN TO REALISTIC LEVELS. VILLAS BOAS ACKNOWLEDGED THIS WAS NECESSARY AND REAFFIRMED IT WOULD NOT BE EASY. I ENCOURAGED HIM TO SUGGEST THAT THE AZOREANS THINK IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC, SMALL-SCALE PROJECTS RATHER THAN HYPER-INFLATED DOLLAR TERMS, AND TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERTION STILL EXISING CAPACITY TO DIRECT PRESENT AID RESOURCES TO HEALTH, BASIC SANITATION, AND SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN THE AZORES. CARLUCCI

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